



Community Safety Partnership Newsletter

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Welcome

The pandemic has brought a huge change in public behaviour, and with it, problems we've never had before. Enforced isolation has led to an increase in us getting out and about, on foot, enjoying our rural setting, but this has come at a cost to local farmers. This issue will look at the Countryside Code - given how local farms have been affected by Covid, Internet Safety Day, Homelessness, and some of the findings of the recent Police and Crime Commissioners Community Safety Survey. As always, we hope this newsletter finds you safe and well, but if you require support, please contact the

Harborough Community Hub.

Countryside Code

How lucky are we to live so rurally? In these isolating times, there has been a huge increase in the numbers of us heading outside for exercise.



Exercising locally under Covid restrictions means that there is more footfall on footpaths, but many public footpaths often run through someone else's business. By following the countryside code we can keep the impact to a minimum and keep footpaths free for everyone to enjoy their "local" space.

1. **Respect** - We certainly have had a fair amount of rain of late and the combination of usage and weather can make routes extra muddy. However if you are using them don't just be tempted to wander further into the field to get around the mud - this can damage crops already planted for the season, a local farmer has reported a footpath running through his land has widened from 2m to 11m. Keep to paths, give way to others where it is narrow, and leave gates as you find them.
2. **Protect** - Leave no trace of your visit, take litter home, including dog poo bags and keep dogs under effective control and on leads where there may be livestock. We are coming into lambing season and land owners with sheep will be extra busy with this process.
3. **Enjoy** - Plan ahead, check what facilities might be open, wear the right footwear (a big pair of wellies will help with the mud!), follow signs, and current Covid restrictions.

Continued

Countryside Code Continued

What is a right of way?

A right of way is a path that anyone has the legal right to use on foot and sometimes they also have conditions to be used by other forms of transport. Know the type of footpath you are venturing down first, here is some guidance;

Public footpaths are normally open only to walkers

Public bridleways are open to walkers, horse-riders and cyclists

Restricted byways are open to walkers, horse-riders, and drivers/riders of non-mechanically propelled vehicles (such as horse-drawn carriages and pedal cycles)

Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) are open to all classes of traffic including motor vehicles, though they may not be maintained to the same standard as ordinary roads.

Seasonal traffic regulation orders may be applied to sections of byways and footpaths from time to time, so they may be closed. This is to enable the environment to recover from damage or for repairs to be made.



Safer Internet Day - 9th February

Are you are interested in finding out more about protecting your accounts, using social media safely, online banking and shopping, keeping children safe online and understanding more about fraud and scams to help you win the battle against cyber criminals?

Residents across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are invited to join a webinar, hosted by Rutland County Council, to raise cyber awareness and resilience, helping everyone to become safer online.

There's something for everyone, advice to help keep parents, youngsters and grandparents safe!

To book a place on one of the free webinars, both days offer the same content, please book through Eventbrite by clicking on the dates below to open the links :

**We are supporting
Safer Internet Day 2021!**

**Join one of our
webinars about
fraud and scams**

9 Feb 6:30pm
11 Feb 3:30pm

Delivered by Sam Hancock, Leics Police Cyber Protect Officer

@EMCyberSecure saferinternetday.org.uk

Tues 9th Feb 18:30 or **Thurs 11th Feb 15:30**

Neighbour Disputes and Mediation



Everyone has the right to the quiet enjoyment of their home and Covid restrictions and repeated lockdown have ensured that many of us have spent more time at home than ever before. For some, the home has become an office, school and business location or maybe a DIY project and this has brought about new lifestyles that may impact on others, especially our neighbours.

Anti-social behaviour can include everyday incidents, such as overgrown gardens or noise nuisance from music, dogs and shouting, to more serious acts such as threatening behaviour or harassment. Good neighbours communicate with one another and are able to resolve their differences peacefully. Small compromises and an increased awareness can make a huge difference.

When communication and understanding breaks down we may involve outside agencies to try and resolve the problems and tension. Not all disagreements between neighbours will need to involve Police or Council and there is something proactive you can do to resolve the break down in communication. Here are some suggestions:

Speak to your neighbour about the problem;

Plan what you are going to say before seeing your neighbour;

Listen to your neighbour and your neighbour is more likely to do the same;

Avoid shouting or using abusive language.

If you don't feel you are able to do the above on your own then mediation can be an effective way of resolving neighbour disputes. It is a voluntary process, however by taking part it could help you resolve your problem(s) with your neighbour without involving other agencies. We would not advise mediation is used where there has been a serious act of violence or a criminal act.

Mediation allows you to reach a mutually acceptable solution, it is confidential, informal, aims for a win/win solution and it lets you decide what happens.

Mediation can be arranged with or without both parties meeting face-to-face. The mediator will work with both parties to help them communicate better, understand each other's concerns and jointly come up with solutions to help resolve disputes.

The mediator's role is to arrange a meeting on neutral ground (or at the moment, via phone, or online meetings), and encourages each party to talk freely, explain their point of view, find common ground and come up with an agreed way forward.

In some cases, where this is not possible, the mediator can act as a go-between, handling messages between each party until you both reach an acceptable solution. Remember, the mediator does not take sides, but they can encourage you both to work towards a solution you can be happy with, which will prevent the situation getting out of hand.

Harborough District Council may refer cases to an independent mediation service. If you require support with a neighbour dispute please contact

communitysafety@harborough.gov.uk for advice.



Hate Crime Awareness

A hate crime is any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim, or anybody else, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone's:

- race
- religion
- sexual orientation
- transgender identity
- disability

These are known as 'protected characteristics'.

A hate crime can include verbal or online abuse, intimidation, threats, harassment, assault and damage to property.

A hate incident is behaviour which isn't a crime but which is perceived by the victim, or anybody else, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on the above characteristics.

You can report a hate crime to your local police on **101** or if the crime is happening or someone is in immediate danger please call **999**. You can also report hate crimes or hate incidents **online**.

Police Contact Information

The alternative to phoning 101 is to report crimes to Leicestershire Police online. Reports are triaged, given a crime number and dealt with as they would do if they were reported over the phone. Have a look at www.leics.police.uk for further information or to report.

The police don't tolerate
hate crime



Why should you?

Report it online: www.report-it.org.uk
Report it to your local police: Call **101**
In an emergency, always dial **999**



Report

ONLINE

Community Safety Survey, Early Headlines

Thank you to everyone that completed the Police and Crime Commissioners Community Safety Survey at the end of last year – we had a fantastic response of over 400 replies from the Harborough District. We are reviewing the results to update the Community Safety Action Plan for the coming year 21/22, to be published in April, in the meantime, here are some early headlines;

This year the need to feel safe at home has been hugely important, 85% of you felt safe in your home during the day, with 80% of you also feeling safe outside in your local area during the day. We have seen communities come together and support each other and 89% of you feel like you could ask your neighbour for help.

45% of you felt ASB was a problem, with the most common issues being dog fouling, flytipping and vandalism.

59% of you do not feel crime is a problem locally, but for those that did, the most frequent experienced or witnessed were vehicle crime, rural crime (for example theft from a farm) and online crime (such as fraud). However only 13% of respondents had been a victim of crime in past 12 months and of those 44% did not report their incident to the police.

3% of you felt ASB had decreased in the past 12 months and 5% felt crime had reduced. Actually overall crime has decreased in the past year as have incidents of ASB, so one of the things we will be focusing on will be communicating these good news stories and also encouraging the reporting of both crime and ASB.

Lutterworth & Broughton Astley, Policing Update

The Police produce monthly newsletters to report on local crime and policing issues, you can view these on the Community Safety News and Campaigns page on our website. The January newsletter looks at how the new workforce model, adopted in March 2020, has made significant improvements to the policing across the district, and in particular, the Lutterworth and Broughton Astley beat. Response times are quicker and there are more officers and time for proactive patrols. Per shift, on average, each officer spends only about 1.5 hours in the station, meaning the rest of the time they are out on patrol and 'visible'. In terms of local policing, people have previously raised concerns about the lack of police presence, but this is a huge step forward and helps to account for the speedier response times and their increased presence in patrol areas is also a preventative. Across the whole Leicestershire Police Force, Harborough and Wigston has the 3rd lowest crime statistics, within which, Broughton Astley has the lowest crime stats for the policing area and Lutterworth has the third lowest. Furthermore, specific operations were run in Lutterworth from September to November 2020, that tackled the annual spike in crime, the operation resulted in 67 less offences overall and with the population increases, the crimes per person rate has decreased significantly, and you are less likely to be a victim of crime in Lutterworth and Broughton Astley.



Homelessness Support

If you see someone sleeping rough in our district you can report it online through **Streetlink** or by telephoning Streetlink on

0300 5000 914. Streetlink is the national rough sleeping reporting service enabling the public to quickly connect rough sleepers to local services. Referrals to Streetlink also go to the Harborough Housing Team.

If the Harborough Housing Team are made aware of someone sleeping rough then there are options to help them to find housing and support. This could be by assisting them to move into their own property or by helping them to move to a supported hostel. They can also help to sort out benefits to ensure that everyone has an income. Harborough District Council work with a number of supporting agencies across the district to help rough sleepers and people at risk of homelessness. No one should have to live on the streets or be begging, but they do need to be willing to engage with services for support.

If you are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless you should contact the council as soon as possible. You can do this online (www.harborough.gov.uk), by email (hhs@harborough.gov.uk) or by calling the council on **01858 828282**.



We are still in a pandemic.
Please stay as safe as possible to reduce transmissions, current guidance is to stay at home. For up-to-date guidance, please check the Government website. Thank you.

Photo and News Opportunities

The front page photo is of the rolling hills, just over the border in Northamptonshire. If you have photos or news from around the Harborough District that you would like to have featured in the quarterly newsletter, please submit them by end of April 2021 to r.woods@harborough.gov.uk.

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Harborough District
Community Safety Partnership

Keeping Harborough District Safer Together